

IN THE ABSTRACT

Please delete the current Abstract in its entirety and  
substitute therefor the enclosed New Abstract.

NEW ABSTRACT

A solar energy powered lamp driver capable of driving a gas discharge lamp includes a half-bridge inverter having first and second branches. The first branch includes two controllable switches coupled in series between first and second reference nodes. The second branch includes two buffer capacitors coupled in series between the first and said second reference nodes. An output branch is connected between first and second nodes. The first node is between the two controllable switches and the second node is between the two buffer capacitors. A boost converter having an output is connected directly to the first node between the two controllable switches.